

“Professional Proposal Writing for NCD Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa”

October 24th-28th 2022, Zomba, Malawi

The five days capacity development workshop was organized by Dr. Andreas Deckert of the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health and Thom Chaweza from the Lighthouse Trust, Malawi. The workshop was facilitated by seasoned Public Health Experts, including Dr. Sylvia Sax, Dr. Florian Neuhaus, Astrid Berner-Rodoreda, Dr. Andreas Deckert from the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, and Prof. Dr. med. Hans-Michael Steffen from the University Hospital, Cologne, Germany.

The workshop participants were 26 public health professionals from eight Sub-Saharan African countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, and Malawi, specialized in preventing and controlling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Most of the participants are Alumni of the MSc International Health at the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Germany and some of them are additionally DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Alumni.

The expert facilitators guided participants through different topics (see text box) using diverse teaching approaches such as lectures, group work, peer review, and feedback sessions to develop and submit a winning proposal to help prevent and control NCDs in Sub-Saharan Africa. The friendly environment created opportunities for the workshop participants and facilitators to have dinner and a walk as they shared ideas during such events. In the end, participants unanimously agreed that they had learned new skills in proposal writing, were now more assertive, confident, bold, and had networked, and were better placed to address NCD-related issues in their respective countries. Finally, four promising proposal could be drafted and are now close to submission. Participants received certificates as a form of recognition.

Topics covered include the following:

- * Writing an effective grant proposal
- * Vital elements of framing global health proposal
- * Funders & criteria for proposal evaluation
- * MS-Word beyond simple scripting
- * Technical English in proposal writing
- * Working in a proposal writing team
- * General proposal structure
- * Using mind-maps in proposal concepts
- * Developing logical framework
- * Budgeting in proposal development
- * Proposal review & feedback

